

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORMAT FOR ACTIONS OTHER THAN HAZARDOUS FUELS AND FIRE REHABILITATION ACTIONS

Mohave County Flood Alert System Flood Monitoring Devices NEPA Number DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0016-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Kingman Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AZA 35519, AZA 35531, AZA 35527, AZA 35521

Proposed Action Title/Type: Rights-of-way for flood control weather monitoring devices

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 25 N., R. 13 W., sec. 33, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Flat Rock Spring, AZA 35519);
T. 16 N., R. 15 W., sec. 4, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Granite Peak, AZA 35531);
T. 22 N., R. 20 W., sec. 35, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Basin Well, AZA 35527);
T. 28 N., R. 19 W., sec. 25, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Cyclopic, AZA 35521).

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would be to grant rights-of-ways to Mohave County for four weather stations. The Flat Rock Spring, Granite Peak, Basin Well, and Cyclopic monitoring devices would consist of a 1-foot-diameter standpipe, which would stand about 10 feet tall and would be equipped with weather monitoring sensors, such as a precipitation gauge, a small solar panel (approximately 1–2 square feet), a radio transmitter, an approximately 6-foot-tall antenna mast (mounted about 2 feet below the top of the standpipe), and an approximately 3-foot-long horizontally mounted antenna for directional transmission or vertically mounted for omni-directional transmission. The stand pipe would be painted according to BLM Visual Resource Management specifications. The right-of-way area for each of these would be 10 × 10 feet (0.002 acre). The construction is anticipated to take two to four hours depending on the number of sensors installed. Regular maintenance would be performed approximately every six months. The proposed term would be through December 31, 2042.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Land Use Plan Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*

Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):
N/A

LR13a/v: All other minor rights-of-way would be evaluated through the environmental review process and granted on a case by case basis. Existing rights-of-way would be used when possible to minimize surface disturbance.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 J (3): *Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterizations studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samplers.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (see Attachment 1), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the impacts of granting these rights-of-way and there were no extraordinary circumstances with these and, due to the small area affected and the terms and conditions included in the authorizations, there would be no potential for significant impacts.

D. SIGNATURE

Authorizing Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sánchez Date: 5/2/2012
(Signature)

Name: Ruben Sánchez
Title: Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this categorical exclusion review, contact Melissa Patriquin, Lands and Realty, Kingman F.O. 2755 Mission Blvd, Kingman, AZ 86401, phone (928) 718-3706.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the categorical exclusion. See Attachment 2.

Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No. The proposed monitoring stations would have beneficial effects to public health and safety by providing public officials, emergency responders, and the general public with real time monitoring of weather conditions. There are no adverse impacts or significant effects.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988) national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No. The area disturbed by these would be very small (10 ft. by 10 ft. each) and would not affect historic or cultural resources.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No. The environmental effects would be Non-controversial and no conflicts concerning available resources were identified. Similar monitoring devices have been installed with no concerns regarding effects.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No. The environmental effects of these devices would be limited to the elimination of a few plants and the displacement of any rodents or insects inhabiting those specific locations. These kinds of impacts are quite common, the effects of similar actions, though not necessarily documented, have been observed for hundreds of years. Similar monitoring devices have been installed in the BLM Kingman area with no significant effects or risks.
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No. Any future proposals to install similar devices are discretionary on the part of the BLM Authorized Officer and subject to NEPA.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No. These devices are relatively small and their operation and maintenance would not contribute significantly to the altering of the this area's natural landscape by incrementally filling it with human created features as long as the threshold deemed as significant is not exceeded, which is not anticipated to be achieved for many more years, if ever.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No. There are no properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places in within the project locations
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No. A biological assessment was prepared for each location. All sites are within the 10J area for California condor but will not jeopardize the continued existence of condor. No other T&E or proposed species or critical habitat is present.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No. The granting of these rights-of-way would not violate any laws or any requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Attachment 1 Continued: Extraordinary Circumstances Review	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No. The effects of the proposed rights-of-way would benefit the public as a whole equally.
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	No. None of these sites are known to be sacred, nor would the placement of these monitoring devices or their maintenance impact access to any ceremonially used Indian sacred sites on Federal lands.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No. Although non-native plant species may exist in these areas it is not anticipated that the construction, maintenance, operation, or termination of the proposed devices would contribute to the introduction or spread of non-native invasive species noxious weeds because no heavy machinery will be used, no noxious weeds were, and the area of soil disturbance is small.

ATTACHMENT 2 APPROVAL AND DECISION

Compliance and assignment of responsibility: Lands & Reality, Melissa Patriquin

Monitoring and assignment of responsibility: Lands & Reality, Melissa Patriquin

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: / s / Melissa Patriquin **Date:** 3/14/2012

Melissa Patriquin
Project Lead

Reviewed by: / s / Ramone B. McCoy **Date:** 3/14/2012

Ramone McCoy
NEPA Coordinator

Reviewed by: / s / Ruben A. Sánchez **Date:** 5/2/2012

Ruben Sánchez
Supervisor

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would be to grant rights-of-ways to Mohave County for four weather stations. The Flat Rock Spring, Granit Peak, Basin Well, and Cyclopic monitoring devices would consist of a 1-foot-diameter standpipe, which would stand about 10 feet tall and would be equipped with weather monitoring sensors, such as a precipitation guage, a small solar panel (approximately 1–2 square feet), a radio transmitter, an approximately 6-foot-tall antenna mast (mounted about 2 feet below the top of the standpipe), and an approximately 3-foot-long horizontally mounted antenna for directional transmission or vertically mounted for omni-directional transmission. The stand pipe would be painted according to BLM Visual Resource Management specifications. The right-of-way area for each of these would be 10 × 10 feet (0.002 acre). The construction is anticipated to take two to four hours depending on the number of censors installed. Regular maintenance would be performed approximately every six months. The proposed term would be through December 31, 2042.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable): See attached draft rights-of- way grants.

Approved By: / s / Ruben A. Sánchez **Date:** 5/2/2012

Ruben Sánchez
Field Manager